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Friends & Family is a quarterly publication, edited by Shane Starr. If you would like to opt out of receiving future fundraising requests, write the HSHS St. Nicholas Foundation at 3100 Superior Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081.

In the name of love

LIFE-SAVING CARE MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU

It was just before Christmas of 2021, and Dan Berg was preparing for another holiday with his wife Patricia, but something didn't feel right. His stomach wall had ruptured, disrupting some of his internal organs and creating visible bulges on his stomach. "This all just happened out of nowhere. I had several bulges in my stomach, but no pain initially," said Dan. Despite the seriousness of his condition, Dan did not seek medical help right away as his focus was on his wife, Patricia. He was her only caregiver.

"Patricia was suffering from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's; **I COULD NOT leave her alone,**" he explained.

For the next five months, Dan lived in discomfort as he continued to hide what had happened and prioritize Patricia as her illnesses progressed. Sadly, on April 20, 2022, Patricia passed away, just shy of their 50th wedding anniversary. "She was the best thing that ever happened to me!" said Dan.

A few weeks after his wife's passing, Dan knew something was very wrong. "I felt a twinge in my stomach and became very nauseous," he said. Dan called his neighbor and asked them to call 9-1-1. The ambulance arrived, and they were off to HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital.

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Dan was very familiar with HSHS St. Nicholas because they also took care of care of Patricia when she was ill. “The times she was admitted to the hospital, she was taken great care of! I cannot say enough good things about St. Nicks.” said Dan.

Moments later they arrived at HSHS St. Nicholas and Dan was immediately taken to the emergency department where he received several tests and X-rays. “They did a complete top to bottom check on me and told me ‘Dan, you need to have emergency surgery,’” he said. He was prepped for surgery and brought back to the operating room, but Dan was having doubts about he surgery.

“I was in the operating room talking to the anesthesiologist, still not wanting to go forward with the surgery,” said Dan. He recognized the last name on the anesthesiologist’s badge and asked if his father was a surgeon at HSHS St. Nicholas previously. “He was the son of the surgeon who did my double knee replacement here in the 90’s,” he said. “I immediately felt more relaxed on the table.”

Dan’s surgeon arrived and began walking him through what the procedure would look like, trying to ease his mind. When that didn’t work, she took a different approach. “She was point blank to me,” said Dan. His surgeon told him he had two choices, have the surgery or he would die. **“She put it to me just the way I needed to hear it. I will never forget that woman. She saved my life!”**

After his surgery, the care team at St. Nicholas had one goal: to get Dan home. “My goodness, I am nearly 90 years old, and I have never had such good care in my life!” exclaimed Dan.

When you support the HSHS St. Nicholas Foundation, you help bring lifesaving care and compassion to patients like Dan, when they need it most. You impact **YOUR** community with every gift!



2022 Nurse of the Year

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital is pleased to announce the 2022 Nurse of the Year award. Annually, Nurse of the Year award recipients are honored for demonstrating passion, quality and excellence in nursing and carrying out the core values of HSHS: Respect, Care, Competence and Joy. This year's award winner is Alison Bahr, Registered Nurse, HSHS St. Nicholas ED/Cath Lab.

"Alison demonstrates pure joy for her career and is an exemplar role model for her fellow peers in showing what a nurse does," said Kelsey Frericks, Assistant Nursing Manager, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital.

Alison is an advocate for her patients, making sure they receive the right care as quickly as possible. She brings Joy to patients by going out of her way to get them coffee from the coffee shop when the machine on our unit is out of order. She shows Care for patients by helping them through difficult times. She brings Competence through her passion about the ED, coming into work daily striving to provide top notch care for everyone who walks through the doors of the ED.

Congratulations to Alison on being named the 2022 Nurse of the Year. It is through YOUR shared love of our mission that nurses like Alison can achieve the highest honors.



Share Your Story

We in philanthropy want you to know how important your generosity is to our patients, their families, and our caregivers. *Family and Friends* is a quarterly publication designed to highlight the meaningful impact **YOU** make on our hospital, and how you make miracles happen every day.

The HSHS St. Nicholas Foundation raises much-needed funds to support the future care provided at HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital.

Do you have a story to share? Do you know someone who had a great experience at our hospital?

Let us know at wi-foundations@hshs.org and it could be featured in a future publication!



Double or Triple your Impact

ASK YOUR EMPLOYER ABOUT MATCHING GIFTS!

Did you know that your employer may match your gift to the HSHS St. Nicholas Foundation? Matching gifts occur when a company matches the charitable contribution of an employee to a nonprofit organization.

If you (or your spouse) work for a matching gift company, your gift could be **DOUBLED** or even **TRIPLED**!

This process is very simple. If your company matches charitable contributions, ask your HR department for a matching gift form. After completing the form, send it along with your gift to the HSHS St. Nicholas Foundation (forms are also accepted after you send the gift). The Foundation confirms on the form that it has been received and meets the company's guidelines for receiving a matching gift. The Foundation then returns the form to the company. The company verifies eligibility and sends a check to the HSHS St. Nicholas Foundation.



Pictures of St. Nicholas Colleagues during Hospital Week 2023. One of our core mission pillars is "Joy". This isn't hard for our colleagues to do!